

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

Before turning to the claims, a brief discussion of aspects of a housing according to disclosed embodiments is provided. As discussed in lines 4-8 of page 1, the disclosure relates to devices for use with an electronic smart card, also called a smart card, of the bank card or "SIM" (Subscriber Identification Module) card type. As further discussed in lines 6-13 of page 3, a housing can include an integrated circuit for the secure handling of data, for example, data that is exchanged between the card and a terminal device.

Turning now to the claims, Claim 26 is rejected as being anticipated by Yap.

Amended Claim 26 recites a housing for connecting a portable smart device to a terminal device including an opening that defines a functional position for communicating with the smart device when the smart device is received in the opening, a first connecting means for connecting with the smart device when the smart device is located at the functional position, so as to send data to the smart device, and a second connecting means for receiving data from the terminal device. The housing also includes a transparent or translucent portion for allowing at least a portion of the smart device to be visible therethrough when the smart device is located at the functional position and connected to the first connecting means.

The paragraph starting on line 45 of column 14 of Yap discloses that data is sent from the card 10 to the set top box 601 according to the depression of the membrane 4408. However, Yap is not believed to disclose data being sent from the set top box 601 to the card 10.

Accordingly, Yap does not disclose a housing including a first connecting means for connecting with a smart device when the smart device is located at a functional position, so as to send data to the smart device, and a second connecting means for receiving data from the terminal device, in combination with the other elements recited in amended Claim 26.

Claim 26 is therefore allowable over Yap. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 26 is respectfully requested.

Claim 32 is also rejected as being anticipated by Yap.

Regarding Claim 32, the Examiner takes the position at the bottom of page four of the Official Action that "the bottom face of the card is also visible as there is an opening 4410. Such disclosures teaches a transparent portion for allowing... at least a portion of the opposed bottom face of the card to be visible therethrough..." (underlining added). Although Applicants do not share this view, the wording in Claim 32 is varied in minor respects to recite in different terms that which was already claimed.

Specifically, amended Claim 32 recites that at least a portion of the opposed bottom face of the card is visible through the transparent or translucent portion. Clearly, the portion of Yap's card designated in the Official Action as an "opposed bottom face" is not visible through a transparent or translucent portion.

Claim 32 is therefore also allowable over Yap. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 32 is respectfully requested.

Claim 38 is also rejected as being anticipated by Yap.

Amended Claim 38 recites a housing for establishing a communication link between a chip card and an external terminal device, including a functional position

for receiving the chip card so as to establish a two-way communication link between the chip card and the external terminal device, and a part at least partially covering the functional position, wherein the part comprises a transparent or translucent material.

For reasons consistent with the above discussion of Claim 26, Yap does not disclose a housing including a functional position for receiving a chip card so as to establish a two-way communication link between the chip card and an external terminal device. Indeed, assuming for the sake of discussion that a communication link exists in Yap, that communication link is, at most, one-way.

Claim 38 is therefore also allowable over Yap. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 38 is respectfully requested.

New Claim 41 recites a housing for connecting a portable smart device including an opening that defines a functional position for communicating with the smart device when the smart device is received in the opening, a connecting means for connecting with the smart device when the smart device is located at the functional position, so as to send data to the smart device, and a transparent or translucent portion for allowing at least a portion of the smart device to be visible therethrough when the smart device is located at the functional position and connected to the connecting means.

New Claim 41 is also allowable over Yap. Yap does not disclose a housing including a connecting means for connecting with a smart device when the smart device is located at a functional position, so as to send data to the smart device, in combination with the other elements recited in Claim 41, for reasons consistent with the above discussion of Claim 26.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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